

House of Representatives, March 5, 1998. The Committee on Government Administration and Elections reported through REP. BYSIEWICZ, 100th DIST., Chairman of the Committee on the part of the House, that the bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING GENDER NEUTRAL LEGISLATION.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) In the preparation of bills
2 and resolutions, employees of the Legislative
3 Commissioners' Office, (1) when drafting new
4 language, shall use words that are neutral in
5 gender unless it is necessary that the bill or
6 resolution be expressed in words of a specific
7 gender, and (2) when amending any statute, special
8 act or resolution, may change any word importing
9 the masculine or feminine gender to a word that is
10 neutral in gender if the change does not alter the
11 sense, meaning, or effect of the statute, special
12 act or resolution.

13 Sec. 2. The Office of Fiscal Analysis shall
14 conduct a study to determine the cost to the
15 Legislative Commissioners' Office to revise the
16 general statutes to eliminate gender-specific
17 terms. The study shall determine the cost of
18 completing such revision within various time
19 frames, including, but not limited to, completion
20 of the revision by January 1, 2001, and by January
21 1, 2003. Not later than February 1, 1999, the
22 Office of Fiscal Analysis shall report its
23 findings to the joint standing committee of the

24 General Assembly having cognizance of matters
25 relating to government administration.
26 Sec. 3. This act shall take effect July 1,
27 1998.

28 GAE COMMITTEE VOTE: YEA 12 NAY 4 JF

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"THE FOLLOWING FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT AND BILL ANALYSIS ARE PREPARED FOR THE BENEFIT OF MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, SOLELY FOR PURPOSES OF INFORMATION, SUMMARIZATION AND EXPLANATION AND DO NOT REPRESENT THE INTENT OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OR EITHER HOUSE THEREOF FOR ANY PURPOSE."

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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT - BILL NUMBER HB 5044

STATE IMPACT Minimal Workload Increase, Within
Anticipated Budgetary Resources,
see explanation below

MUNICIPAL IMPACT None

STATE AGENCY(S) Legislative Management

EXPLANATION OF ESTIMATES:

There would be a minimal workload increase for the Office of Fiscal Analysis as a result of the passage of this bill. This workload increase is associated with completing a study to determine the cost to the Legislative Commissioner's Office for revising the general statutes to eliminate gender-specific items. This minimal workload increase can be handled within anticipated budgetary resources of Legislative Management.

There is no workload increase for the Legislative Commissioner's Office associated with using gender neutral language associated with drafting legislation.

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OLR BILL ANALYSIS

HB 5044

AN ACT CONCERNING GENDER NEUTRAL LEGISLATION

SUMMARY: This bill directs (1) the Legislative Commissioners' Office (LCO) to use gender-neutral language in drafting legislation and (2) the Office of

Fiscal Analysis (OFA) to study the cost of a statutory revision to eliminate gender-specific terms.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 1998

FURTHER EXPLANATION

Legislative Commissioners' Office

Under the bill, LCO must use gender-neutral terms when drafting new language in bills and resolutions, unless it is necessary to use words of a specific gender. The bill authorizes LCO, when drafting amendments to existing statutes, special acts, or resolutions, to change from a gender-specific word to a gender neutral one, as long as it does not change the meaning or effect of the law or resolution.

Office of Fiscal Analysis

OFA must study LCO's cost to eliminate gender-specific terms in a complete revision of the general statutes. It must determine the cost of completing the revision under a variety of deadlines, including by January 1, 2001 and January 1, 2003. OFA must report its findings to the Government Administration and Elections Committee by February 1, 1999.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Government Administration and Elections Committee

Joint Favorable Report
Yea 12 Nay 4